

## REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated July 6, 2004 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §101, rejected claims 1-8 and 10-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102 and rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

As indicated above, claim 1 has been amended to be directed to statutory subject matter. The amendment does not narrow the literal scope of the claim. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C § 101.

Claim 1 claims a multi-dimensional table data management unit implemented on a computer comprising table data management means for managing a data block as a processable data group. The data block is composed of a plurality of n-dimensional tables (n is a natural number equal to or larger than 3). The table data management means manipulates item data of the processable data group as n-dimensional data for data management.

Through the structure of the claimed invention having a data table management means which manages a data block composed of a plurality of at least three dimensional tables and which manipulates item data as at least three dimensional data for data management as claimed in claim 1, the claimed invention provides a multi-dimensional table data management unit which allows data retrieval to be performed easily in the depth direction. The prior art does not show, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 14 claims a recording medium recording therein a spreadsheet program that defines a data block as a processable data group. The data block is composed of a plurality of n-dimensional tables (n is a natural number equal to or larger than 3),

and defines item data of the processable data group as n-dimensional data for data management.

Through the structure of the claimed invention having a spreadsheet program that defines a data block as a plurality of at least three dimensional tables and defines item data as at least three dimensional data for data management, as claimed in claim 14, the claimed invention provides a recording medium which can retrieve data easily in the depth direction. The prior art does not show, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claim 14.

Claims 1-8 and 10-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by *Liaw et al* (U.S. Patent No. 5,572,644).

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103. The claims have been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and for reasons which will be set forth below, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims and allows the claims to issue.

*Liaw et al* appears to disclose processing and presentation of information by program applications, particularly electronic spreadsheets. (col. 1, lines 29-31) Notebook 250, shown in FIG. 2C, provides an interface for entering and displaying information of interest. The notebook 250 includes a plurality of spreadsheet pages, such as page 251 (Page n). (col. 8, lines 32-35) Each spreadsheet page of a notebook includes a 2-D spread. (col. 8, lines 48-49) For selecting a plurality of information cells, both 2-D blocks (e.g., block 254 of FIG. 2C) and 3-D blocks of cells may be defined. A 2-D block is a rectangular group of one or more cells and is identified by block coordinates, such as the cell addresses of its upper-left and bottom-right corners. Similarly, a 3-D block represents a solid block (e.g., cube) of

cells. A 2-D block is specified by selecting, with mouse 105 or keyboard 104, opposing corners. In FIG. 2C, for example, the block 254 is defined by corner cells C5 and F14. (col. 9, line 64 through col. 10, line 6) Selection of 3-D cell blocks, i.e., cell ranges spanning more than one page, occurs in a similar fashion. To extend the block 254 (of FIG. 2C) into a 3-D block, the user specifies an additional or third dimension by selecting an appropriate page identifier. (col. 10, lines 19-23) Pages may be selected or grouped together, thereby providing a means for changing multiple pages simultaneously. In much the same manner as cells from a spread are grouped into 2-D blocks, a range of pages are grouped by specifying beginning and ending members. As shown in FIG. 4F, a range from Page A to Page K may be achieved by selecting tabs A (261) and K (267) from identifiers 260, for example, while depressing a key (e.g., status key). A grouping indicator 268 is displayed for indicating members of a group; groupings may also be annotated with user-specified labels. Once grouped, a page of the group may have its operations (e.g., selection, data entry, and the like) percolates to the other members of the group, as desired. (col. 10, lines 29-41)

Thus, *Liaw et al* merely discloses a notebook having a two-dimensional spread (col. 8, lines 48-49) and which extends a two-dimensional block into a three-dimensional block by adding an additional dimension by selecting an appropriate page identifier. (col. 10, lines 19-23) Thus nothing in *Liaw et al* shows, teaches or suggests a) a data block composed of a plurality of n-dimensional tables where n is a natural number equal to or larger than 3 and b) manipulating data items as three-dimensional data for data management as claimed in claims 1 and 14. Rather, the tables defined in *Liaw et al* are two-dimensional tables while three-dimensional

blocks are merely defined by selecting an appropriate page identifier. In other words, the tables are two dimensional in *Liaw et al* and data is manipulated in block fashion based on the two-dimensional block plus an appropriate page identifier.

Since nothing in *Liaw et al* shows, teaches or suggests a plurality of at least three-dimensional tables and manipulating item data as three-dimensional data as claimed in claims 1 and 14, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claims 2-8, 10-13 and 15-17 depend from claims 1 and 14 and recite additional features. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-8, 10-13 and 15-17 would not have been anticipated by *Liaw et al* within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102 at least for the reasons as set forth above. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 2-8, 10-13 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Liaw et al* in view of *Barg et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,707,454).

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of the claim under 35 U.S.C. §103. The claim has been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and for reasons which will be set forth below, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claim and allows the claim to issue.

As discussed above, since nothing in *Liaw et al* shows, teaches or suggests the primary features as claimed in claim 1, applicant respectfully submits that the combination of the primary reference with the secondary reference to *Barg et al* would not overcome the deficiencies of the primary reference. Therefore, applicant

respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

The prior art of record, which is not relied upon, is acknowledged. The references taken singularly or in combination do not anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

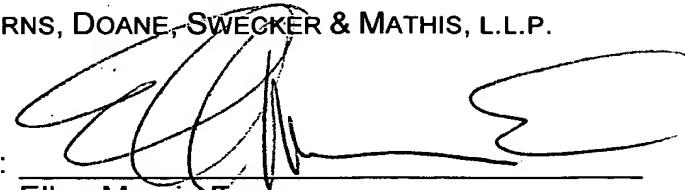
If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge  
our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: 

Ellen Marcie Emas  
Registration No. 32,131

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620